



New York & Long Island Field Offices <http://nyfo.fws.gov> Federal Activities



Federal Activities: Congressional Fact Sheet

Section 10/404 Permits



Our office receives between 150 – 200 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notices, environmental impact statements, and highway design reports for review and comment every year. These projects frequently have significant wetland impacts, such as the Seneca Meadows landfill (71 acres of forested wetland fill) or significant endangered species issues, such as the Stewart Airport (Indiana bat). The State of New York only protects wetlands greater than 12.4 acres in size and the U.S. EPA rarely comments on these projects, often leaving the USFWS as the sole agency reviewer.

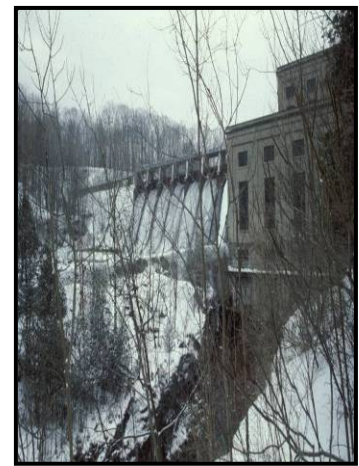
Wind Energy

At least 60 wind energy projects have been proposed in 24 counties across New York State. More than 100 sites are being investigated with the goal to produce 3300 MW of electricity. The Flat Rock wind project, currently under construction, will be the largest project east of Iowa; the proposed Chautauqua wind project is located within a major avian migratory corridor. Another project is proposed two miles south of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. At least six offshore wind projects are being considered, including the Long Island Power Authority project.



Hydroelectric Power

There are currently over 170 active projects with approximately 220 developments in New York, including 5 projects (9 developments) currently undergoing relicensing. We are recently seeing increased activity in hydroelectric power as a result of the energy bill and higher energy prices, as companies are looking to add capacity to existing sites, seriously looking at sites that have been deemed uneconomical for the past 30 years, and even looking at new dam construction (3 such projects are just beginning the licensing process). The NYFO is currently involved in relicensing the Niagara Power Project, a 2,700 MW facility that is the largest project licensed by the FERC. We are also involved in post-licensing studies and habitat improvement projects for the St. Lawrence- FDR Power Project, as well as managing the \$24 million Fish Enhancement, Mitigation, and Research Fund. We have follow-up activities from over 33 projects (64 developments) licensed in the last few years, most with settlements. We participate on many advisory councils linked to settlements. Compliance issues are numerous and often time-consuming.



Tidal and Nuclear Energy

Verdant Power, LLC, is proposing to utilize tidal energy by constructing multiple underwater axial hydroelectric turbines (200 – 400) across approximately 1 mile of the East River adjacent to Roosevelt Island. The Service is concerned about the potential environmental impacts of this project – potentially the first tidal project of this type to be licensed in the United States – on fish and waterfowl. New York has a number of nuclear power plants on Lake Ontario and along the Hudson River. We are working with the NRC and State to address significant fish entrainment and impingement issues.



Energy Transportation – Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals and Pipelines

New York is the entryway for natural gas from Canada to be transported to the energy-hungry northeast. Significant existing or proposed pipelines include Iroquois, Islander East, Stagecoach I and II, and Tennessee, with a current proposal under review for the Millennium/Empire Pipeline proposed to cross over 340 miles of New York State, including hundreds of acres of wetlands, over 400 streams, and the Hudson River. The NYFO is also evaluating the Broadwater Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal (Long Island Sound) and associated transport pipeline. LNG issues are emerging as the country now has 4 LNG terminals built and more than 30 terminals in the planning stages.



Great Lakes Issues



The NYFO is actively involved in numerous Great Lakes issues, including aid with writing the environmental section of the Great Lakes Navigation Report, providing environmental input to the IJC evaluation of water level regulation, and participating in groups to develop the Great Lakes Restoration Plan. The Great Lakes comprise the largest surface water system in the world, containing 84% of North America's fresh water. New York borders Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, the St. Lawrence River, and Niagara River water resources that support significant international fisheries and waterfowl flyways but are plagued with environmental issues such as invasive species influx, habitat loss, and contaminants.

Dam Removal/Fish Passage

The NYFO is involved in an increasing number of projects to improve fish passage. Under contract with NYSDEC and in cooperation with New York Rivers United, we are evaluating fish passage and a dam removal strategy along waterways in the Susquehanna Basin. The NYFO is working with Biologists from the Lower Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Fisheries Resources Offices to evaluate fish passage opportunities in the upper Hudson River. NYFO and the NYSDEC have evaluated fishway design options for the City of Binghamton's water supply dam located on the Susquehanna River in Binghamton. The conceptual decision was developed for a naturalized channel bypassing the dam to provide passage of both riverine and future anadromous fish (American shad). Funding has been requested from the Fish America Foundation.



Lake Sturgeon /American Eel

The NYFO is a member of the Service's Lake Sturgeon Committee and has been active in a variety of sturgeon research and restoration projects. The NYFO has a representative on the Canadian Eel Steering Committee and participates in many meetings and conference calls to ensure close coordination on this species of international importance. We are also involved in determining eel research needs in the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River basin and will be working with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission on eel issues. The NYFO also has a key role in the Status Review for the American eel, part of the process to determine whether the species warrants listing under the Endangered Species Act.

